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SEP 13 2001

Office of the Director  
Group 3600

In re Application of  
Lawrence E. Bodkin, Sr.  
SERIAL NO: 09/496,467  
FILED: February 2, 2000  
FOR: BUOYANCY DEVICES USING  
CONFORMAL CAVITITES

DECISION ON PETITION  
TO MAKE APPLICATION  
SPECIAL (AGE)

This is a decision on your petition submitted on February 12, 2001, to make the above-referenced application special on the basis that applicant is over 65 years of age.

The petition has been found to comply with all requirements of section 708.02, part IV of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures, and will be **GRANTED** for that reason.

The Examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examiner such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, through out its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if Petitioner makes a prompt bona fide effort, in response to each office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the Examiner to accomplish this purpose.

The application is being forwarded to the examiner for accelerated examination consistent with the provisions of section 708.02 of the MPEP.

*Randolph C. Rose Jr.*  
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Rjb-9/11/01